

## Update December 2021

Did you know we have over sixty members who have joined us since January 2020? As we spent a significant proportion of that time unable to offer our usual range of activities, I find that level of new support quite remarkable.

As people are joining at a time when many groups are just getting going again the committee agreed to hold a special session to enable new members to meet the committee and our groups leaders.

I am proud of the range of groups we have on offer through Holme Valley u3a, but as I said at that meeting, we are always open to new ideas – and opportunities to duplicate those groups we know can't find space for too many new people. I am pleased to say the meeting generated some new ideas shared in this newsletter, but we are always open to more. Do get in touch if you have a suggestion, especially if you think you could contribute to the running of the group. We will always offer support to new groups.

Thanks to all the current group leaders who came and shared their activities with new members. It is clear from their input we do keep to that u3a mantra – we 'learn, laugh and live'.

One way we may be able to increase the activities on offer to you is by networking with other u3as. This is something Yorkshire and Humber Region are currently trying to build up, based on experience and ideas in other regions. We discussed this at committee and will be looking out for opportunities.

Nationally, u3as are gearing up to celebrate 40 years of the movement next year. Plans include some tree planting and we are sharing details of how we can join in. You could have the opportunity to hear about plans direct from the new national chair, Liz Thackray, who will be visiting the region in January.

Let us know if you join in any of these wider activities – or perhaps you have your own network with other u3a through friends or family. We are always pleased to hear from you.

David Barnett

**Hvu3a1@gmail.com**

### **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 10.00am**

#### **Holmfirth Methodist Church,**

(by Crown Bottom Car Park)

Our regular monthly meeting is open to all u3a members and to visitors who would like to try a session before joining.

We start with tea and coffee and a chance to meet other members including your committee.

The speaker this month is

#### **Rod Dimpleby** who will be **Tellin t'Tale**.

Rod is author of the book **A Yorkshire Dialect Treasure Trove** and Chairman of the Yorkshire Dialect Society, the oldest dialect society in the world.

This is our last meeting for 2021 and so we will be providing a few festive refreshments.

We will also be holding a special collection. Any profits from your donations are usually passed to a charity, but this time we would like to donate cash to the two food banks operating in the area. Please come prepared to give a little.

### **Fri Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 2022, 10.00am**

#### **Holmfirth Methodist Church**

#### **Peter Drake: A Journey through Africa Part 2**

Peter's talk will take you on a journey from Zambia to the northern deserts of Kenya and a journey through the history of African exploration, the first World War in East Africa, to the modern day photographic safari. It will also cover the people and wildlife.

**We look forward to seeing you at these events.**

## New for 2022?

We are always looking for ideas for new groups, one of the topics of discussion at our recent meeting for new members. Suggestions that have come up recently include:

- Local History – this could look at different areas of our beautiful valley and its rich and varied history
- History – obviously an enormous topic, but it could be broken down according to members' interests
- Bible Studies - several other u3a branches have this topic and each approaches it in different ways
- Coffee and chat – we are aware that many of our members live alone and would enjoy the chance for an informal get-together with others without the need to take part in a particular activity
- Foraging – this would obviously need some expert guidance and it might be a short course or perhaps occasional outings when particular 'crops' are in season

Each of these would need to be approached in different ways and, as always with our groups, they would be shaped by the members involved. Short courses are also an option. For now, we just need to know how many people might be interested in each so, if any (or all) of these suggestions appeal to you, please contact Rose.

[hvu3a1@gmail.com](mailto:hvu3a1@gmail.com)

**If you have any other ideas for new groups, please do let us know.**

Our **Badminton Group** is very keen to find new members. The venue at the Holmfirth Civic Hall has two courts and the current group rarely fill both. Organiser Christine Best explains no recent experience is required and the group can lend a racket or two if you want to try it out. Play is usually doubles depending on numbers and the group are all still learning.

Drop into the Civic Hall 1-2pm Mondays or contact Chris on 07786 926453.

Two groups starting again in January are also keen to recruit new members.

**Latin** will start again on 6<sup>th</sup> January and **Maths is Fun** will start again on January 11<sup>th</sup>

We heard at our meeting for new members just how much fun Maths could be, with group members identifying topics they could cover.

Find out more about these and all our groups on our website:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/holme-valley/groups>

## Days Out

The removal over summer of Covid social distancing restrictions enabled your Days Out team to begin rescheduling the many trips previously planned for the eighteen months of lockdowns. As a result early autumn saw both the Gloucester overnight and Lichfield day trips take place, much to the enjoyment of all participants. Other postponed trips are being included within the 2022 Programme which is nearing finalisation and is expected to include three overnight trips (the Portsmouth trip in September and the Thursford trip in December as well as a new Oxford trip in May and which might yet include the much-heralded Highgrove Gardens visit) and two day trips (one in July and another in April, the highlight of which being an exclusive talk by Charles Hanson of BBC Bargain Hunt fame!). Our first Trip Abroad (already sold out) to Tuscany in October will complete a busy year.

The complications of cancelling trips and arranging members' refunds many times over recent months means that through 2022 we shall be opening our Days Out trips for booking far closer to their travel dates than in the past. As before first priority will be given to Days Out Group members (being everyone who has been on a previous trip) and we are conscious that on occasions this results in no places being available to non Group members. In an attempt to soften this impact we are therefore introducing a Waiting List scheme whereby any non Group member can ask to receive second priority booking status on all Group trips as they are made available for booking. Any non Group member wishing to join this Waiting List should send a written request to [jennybu3a@gmail.com](mailto:jennybu3a@gmail.com).

## Lonely this Christmas?

The committee is aware that there are members of the HVU3A who are isolated and suffer from loneliness. It has been decided to offer a support service to try to alleviate the problem. Where it helps, members will be signposted to other local community groups offering activities, support, and/or social contact. In the first instance Barry Dale and Keith Wilberforce will be the contact points.

Barry can be contacted on 01484 683669 or [bardale8756@talktalk.net](mailto:bardale8756@talktalk.net).

Keith is 01484689624 or [johnkeithwilberforce@gmail.com](mailto:johnkeithwilberforce@gmail.com)

## Creating a u3a wood

GROWING the future, an ambitious mass tree planting project to help generations to come, is being launched by the Third Age Trust, in celebration of 40 years of the u3a. It will also contribute to the Queens Green Canopy initiative to mark her Platinum Jubilee.

The project, called u3a Woodland, began in September this year, with the plan to plant more than 5,000 trees between October and March on 10 acres of low- grade agricultural land on the eastern slope of Sugar Loaf Mountain, within the Brecon National Park on the England/ Wales border.

It is then hoped the scheme will extend across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The scheme is part of an ambition to increase the UK's percentage of woodland and the benefits that come with it, such as flood protection and increasing bio diversity.

Trees can be bought by individual members or u3a groups or as gifts. One tree will cost £7.50, and on further purchases the price is reduced. Anyone purchasing a copse of 100 trees will receive a specially designed certificate to download as a memento of their contribution to the environment and to the u3a movement.

On purchasing a copse members can select their preferred species of trees which will be native to the UK and around two years old. Choice will include Alder, Birch (downy), Birch (silver), Cherry (wild), Crab apple, Dog rose, Hawthorn, Hazel, Oak (pedunculate), Oak (sessile), Rowan and they will be planted with a specially dedicated plaque with the members chosen wording. Every copse sold will make a difference and help the movement get nearer its target of planting 5,000 trees by the end of the planting season in Spring next year. The purchase will include the cost of planting the trees, plus 12 years of maintenance to ensure the trees become established. Planting will mainly be done by volunteers.

The new wood will be called "u3a 40th Anniversary wood"

"Each tree planted in the u3a Woodland will help benefit the environment, wildlife and climate", said Michaela Moody, head of u3a 40th anniversary celebrations and u3a vice chair.

"This gives us an opportunity to buy trees in a sustainable way and contribute to celebrating the movement's 40th anniversary in 2022." *Trees can be bought through the u3a brand centre [u3abrand.org.uk](http://u3abrand.org.uk)*

**Anyone interested in a joint purchase or on behalf of Holme Valley u3a please get in touch.**

## A regional visit.

We are delighted to be able to give you advance notice of the visit of Liz Thackray, Chair of the Third Age Trust, to Yorkshire and Humber region on Monday January 10th and Tuesday, January 11th. On Monday she will be in Skipton, meeting members of the Westnet network. Tuesday she will be in York with a Yorkshire Forum planned. All members are welcome to join the Tuesday event either Face to Face or by Zoom. Early registration for personal attendance is advised as numbers are limited.

**If you want to attend or join via Zoom please let us know and we can forward full registration details.**